Borough of Tenby

1970

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

DISTRICT
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

BOROUGH OF TENBY.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1970.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Tenby

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the health of the Borough during 1970.

HOUSING.

Work had commenced on the building of 27 council houses at Tudor Way by the end of the year and in addition a considerable number of private dwellings were completed. However, there still remains a large number of persons awaiting council accommodation in the Borough, with a continued need to consider the provision of accommodation suitable for the elderly in the area. On the whole, the standard of all housing is good.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year, although the number of notifiable diseases were few, there was an increase in the number of cases of measles, from 5 in 1969 to 23 in 1970, despite the fact that there is now a vaccine available for all children over 1 year of age. In the Spring, chicken-pox was prevalent in the Borough and following this a considerable number of cases of shingles were reported by the family doctors. In common with the whole of the country, there was an increased incidence of scabies in 1970 and, to a smaller extent, an increase in the number of V.D. cases, particularly during the summer season.

Considering the large number of holiday visitors to the town, only a small number of cases of "tourist diarrhoea" came to my attention this year.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

This year, considerable attention was given to the problem of a site for a proposed new refuse tip for Tenby and a meeting of adjoining interested local authorities was held in July, to consider a combined refuse disposal scheme for the whole area. However, no definite decision had been made by the end of the year, but negotiations were proceeding with the Narberth Rural District Council and it was hoped that the matter would be resolved early in 1971.

WATER SAFETY.

One young university student was drowned at the South Beach in June; this was a most regrettable incident but unfortunately only one of many such tragedies which occur each year in coastal areas. It was pleasing to learn of the progress made by the Tenby Swimming Association in providing instruction on water safety on both beaches during the season, and also the success of the Tenby and District Swimming Pool Association in their fund raising efforts for the proposed new indoor pool for the area.

CARAVANNING AND CAMPING.

This ever-popular form of holiday brought hundreds of visitors to the town during the summer. I am pleased to report that standards of the caravan and camping sites in the Borough are satisfactory, with regular inspections being made by your Public Health Inspector. An increased number of touring vans sought accommodation during the height of the season and many had to be diverted to non-coastal sites.

I should like to express my sincere thanks to the Members of the Council and its Officers for their courtesy and co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

M Lawlor.

MICHAEL LAWLOR, M.B., B.Ch.,
D.C.H., D.P.H.,

The Clinic,
Warren Street,
TENBY.

Tel: TENBY 2991/2.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Resident Population (Registrar General's Estimate) ....

1970 4,590

	Borough of Tenby 1970	Borough of Tenby 1969	County of Pembroke	England and Wales.
Live Births	62	49		
Live Birth Rate (per 1,000 pop.)	13.5	10.7	16.5	16.0
Illegitimate Live Births	8	4		
Illegitimate Live Births (per cent of total live births)	13	8	6	8
Still Births	2	Nil		
Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 Live & Still Births)	31	Nil	16	13
Total Live and Still Births	64	49		
Infant Deaths	1	Nil		
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live Births)				
- total	16	Nil	20	18
- legitimate	19	Nil	20	17
- illegitimate	Nil	Nil	10	26
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 4wks)(per 1,000 Live Births)	16	Nil	13	12
Early neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1wk) (per 1,000 Live Births)	Nil	Nil	13	11
Peri-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1wk and Still Births combined)(per 1,000 Live & Still Births)	31	Nil	29	23
Maternal Deaths	Nil	Nil		
Maternal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live & Still Births)	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Deaths	66	74		
Death Rate (per 1,000 population)	14.4	16.2	13.1	11.7

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INFANT MORTALITY.

One male child died at the age of 15 days, from pneumonia, during the year.

DEATHS.(General)

There is a slight drop in the general death rate for the Borough this year, but it remains higher than both the national and county rates. 14 of the total deaths were due to malignant disease - 3 due to cancer of the lung, and heart disease accounted for 20 deaths.

Approximately 26% of the deaths occurred in persons aged between 70 and 80 years and approximately 33% in persons over 80 years of age.

Causes of Death.	Male.	Female.
TOTAL (All causes)	33	33
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, intestine		1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast		1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus		1
Malignant neoplasm, prostate	3	
Other malignant neoplasms		3
Diabetes Mellitus	1	
Other diseases of nervous system	1	
Hypertensive disease	1	
Ischaemic heart disease	10	9
Other forms of heart disease	1	
Cerebrovascular disease	1	9
Other diseases of circulatory system	3	1
Influenza	2	
Pneumonia	2	2
Bronchitis and emphysema	2	
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	
Other diseases of genito-urinary system	1	
All other accidents		1
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries		1
All other external causes		1

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following cases of infectious disease were notified to me from the Borough during the year :-

3 Infective Jaundice
23 Measles.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Once again, I am pleased to report that there were no deaths from tuberculosis, nor were any new cases of the disease notified to me during the year.

Prevention of Tuberculosis.

B.C.G. vaccination was carried out as usual during the autumn term at Greenhill School (13-year old children and over) and a total of 145 pupils were vaccinated.

In the County of Pembrokeshire during the year, 1,048 school-children were vaccinated and also 50 contacts. Dr. D. Llewelyn Davies, the Chest Physician, continues to vaccinate contacts at the Chest Clinic.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY.

A survey amongst the general population of Tenby was carried out by the Mobile Unit of the Mass Radiography Service in January 1970. Out of a total of 712 persons examined (315 males and 397 females) 26 were found to have some abnormality of chest and 9 of these were referred for further investigations.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946.

Local Health Services.

Vaccinations and immunisations were carried out regularly at the Infant Welfare Clinic and also at school sessions. Vaccination against Rubella (German Measles) was introduced at the end of the summer and initially 13-year old girls were offered protection - the acceptance rate by parents was almost 100%. It is hoped to continue school sessions annually, offering this form of vaccination to all girls aged between 11 and 14 years.

The following details relate to all children under 16 years of age who were vaccinated and immunised in the County during the year:-

Primary diphtheria immunisations:	1,885;	"Booster" doses:	1,333
Whooping cough immunisations:	1,857.		
Primary Tetanus immunisations:	2,137;	"Booster" doses:	1,545
Primary Smallpox vaccinations:	800;	Re-vaccinations:	188
Primary Polio. vaccinations:	1,690;	"Booster" doses:	1,211
B.C.G. vaccinations:	1,048;	Contacts:	50
Measles vaccinations:	1,123.		
Rubella vaccinations:	573.		

Ambulance Service.

During the year 1970, Ambulance No.1 based at Tenby carried 1,594 sitting patients and 322 stretcher patients, travelling a total of 28, 282 miles.

Ambulance No. 2 travelled 24,966 miles, conveying 1,366 sitting patients and 417 stretcher patients.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT,1948.

Section 47 : Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

I am pleased to report that no action was necessary under the above Section, in the Borough, during 1970.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
AND
HOUSING OFFICER'S REPORT
1970.

D.H.W.GRIFFITHS.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1970.

HOUSING.

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts).	...	201
Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous of injurous to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	...	1
Number of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	...	34
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority.	...	34

HOUSING ACTS.

One house was found unfit for human habitation which was made subject to a Closing Order in lieu of demolition due to its position in relation to the neighbouring houses.

The main complaints received from the occupiers of private houses and business houses was in the main concerning drainage. These matters were dealt with as they arose and no formal action was taken.

HOUSE IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

Improvement Grant Approved	...	6
Standard Grant Approved	...	Nil.

No increase in the Applications for a Grant under the terms of the new provisions of the Housing Act 1969 were received. However, I feel that the full impact of the Grant policy of the Government has not as yet been realised. There is no doubt in my mind that the Government fully mean to improve the existing stock of old houses throughout the country, in order to ease the burden of mass substandard dwellings coming about within the next decade. It is my personal belief that the Grants will again be financially raised in an effort to financially stimulate the householders and house owners of the Country.

Council must follow a programme of encouraging house improvements within the Borough area by Grant payments made in its discretion within the Act. A survey has shown that within the Borough there are 70 units of accommodation without standard amenities laid down under the Housing Act 1969. I sincerely hope that this will be greatly decreased if not cancelled out in the next few years aided by financial assistance offered by the Housing Act 1969.

·IL HOUSE ALLOCATION.

The demand for Council house accommodation virtually has not increased from my last Report. The building of the Tudor Way Estate has commenced and it is hoped that we will be in a position to allocate 27 houses in the next 9 months or so. This will aid us in rehousing from the Housing List itself and also alleviating overcrowding in some of our 2 bedroom flats.

COUNCIL HOUSE ALLOCATION.

Allocations made:

Number of houses allocated 3 bedroomed	...	5
Number of flats allocated 2 bedroomed	...	13
Number of old-age-pensioner bungalows allocated	...	4
Tenancy Exchanges	...	9

COUNCIL HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.

Table showing Council House Accommodation.

LOCATION.	No,	4 Beds.	3 Beds.	2 Beds.	1 Beds.	2 Bed Flats.
Newell Hill.	56	-	44	-	-	12
Maudlins.	35	-	35	-	-	-
The Glebe.	89	-	89	-	-	-
Knowling Mead.	106	1	68	9	4	24
Augustus Place.	22	-	-	-	22	-
Churchill Close.	24	-	-	-	-	24
Heywood Court.	71	-	-	-	23	48
Jones Terrace.	8	-	-	-	8	-
Leach Way.	24	-	24	-	-	-
Totals:	435	1	260	9	57	108

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS.

The general standard of food hygiene as practised in the Town by shops, hotels and guest houses continues to improve.

Unfortunately, it was necessary to institute legal proceedings against one of our Cafes in the Town. This resulted in a fine being imposed on the occupier of £200. This I hope will illustrate to all businesses engaged in the food industry that compliance with good food practise is essential in any town or area where its livelihood is based on the holiday trade, and that any person jeopardising the good name of this Town as a first class holiday centre, must be prepared to bear the consequences.

I am pleased to report that other than this establishment, I received few complaints during the year either regarding food or food premises. However, a constant watch is kept on all food establishments within the Borough.

CONDEMNATION OF FOOD.

Class of Food.	Weight.			
	Cwts.	Qtrs.	Lbs.	Ozs.
Tinned meat.	-	1	21	-
Fresh meat.	-	-	-	-
Tinned fruit.	-	1	10	-
Tinned vegetables.	-	-	-	-
Tinned fish.	-	-	4	-
Fresh vegetables.	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous foods.	-	-	-	-
	-	2	35	-

FACTORIES ACT 1961.

Premises.	No. on Register.	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
1. Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	7	13	-	-
2. Factories not included (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	37	43	-	-
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises).	-	-	-	-
	44	56	-	-

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACTS 1963.

Section 48.

One accident was reported during the year.

On investigation no responsibility could be put upon the shop proprietor concerned as it was found that the accident was purely a fault of the individual.

No. of premises registered during 1970.

		Total.
Offices	Nil	29
Retail Shops	3	80
Wholesale Shops	Nil	3
Catering Establishments	1	26
Fuel Storage Depots	Nil	Nil.
	4	138

Analysis of Persons Employed.

Offices	91		
Retail Shops	361		
Wholesale Shops	2	Males ...	215
Catering Establishments	273	Females ...	517
Canteens	5		
	732		

It is difficult to be accurate in the analysis of persons employed in that many, if not all, of our business premises falling within the scope of the Act, take on staff during the summer season and then dismiss them as business drops off. However, according to our records, the above table has been compiled.

...T CONTROL.

As is shown by the following table, an increase in rodent infestation was reported to my department during the year. These figures in no way show that the rodent population in the Town has increased to any appreciable degree. In fact, I am pleased to report that our rodent problem is, in my mind, very small.

The policy to use only Warfarin anti-coagulant poison continues with good result and I have found no evidence of rodent immunity to this type of treatment.

The sewers of the Town were treated during the year.

Again, the refuse tip gave no undue problem and can be described under the classification of minimal infestation. Here again, we used only Warfarin type poisons.

Rat Infestations	...	131
Mouse Infestations	...	6
		137

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT 1960.

The control of touring caravans entering the County has shown itself to be the problem that was expected a year or so ago. There is no doubt that the introduction of Information Centres, such as exists at Begelly, has aided in the administration of the above Act, as well as provide a service to the general holidaying public.

The five licensed caravan sites were inspected by me regularly and I am pleased to report that the general standards of Public Health amenity were found to be very good. The site operators appear to improve their site conditions from year to year, hence bringing about a better environment for the caravan holiday and improving Public Health in general. The standard of caravan units was found to be very good in their structure and generally well equipped and kept in a clean state.

Five Licensed Caravan Sites exist in the Borough Area.

1.	Kiln Park and Quarry Site	600 Caravans.
2.	Salterns	58 "
3.	Zion Gardens	28 "
4.	Meadow Farm	15 "
5.	Windmills	15 "

R SUPPLY.

The Ritec river appears to be the raw water source of supply to the Pembrokeshire Water Board during the peak periods of the summer. The Water Board have fitted their water works at Tenby with modern sophisticated equipment capable of treating such water from a bacteriological point of view.

During the course of the year water samples were taken within the area as a routine measure and all were found to be satisfactory.

CHEMICAL SAMPLES	...	6
BACTERIOLOGICAL SAMPLES	...	37

REFUSE DISPOSAL

The refuse service of the Borough is to my mind second to none in its clearance of the Towns refuse from day to day. Difficulties have arisen regarding the deposition of the collected refuse but it is envisaged that these difficulties will be overcome with the aid of our neighbouring Local Authorities.

I would take this opportunity in complimenting my refuse team for a job well done in some times distasteful conditions.